



## SES Parent FAQs

The Supplemental Educational Services (SES) program offers families a chance to receive free tutoring for their children. Generally, your child is eligible for SES if he/she qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch, is non-proficient (did not pass ISTEP+ or another district assessment) and attends a Title I school that is in school improvement. If your child is eligible for SES, your school district is required to contact you to let you know. The district must also provide you with information about tutoring providers from which you can choose to work with your child.

If you are trying to choose an SES provider, you might consider asking the following questions to help you pick the best SES provider for your child. If you have more questions about SES, please feel free to call the Title I office in your child's school district.

### Who is the local contact person for the provider?

Your district should be able to provide you with this contact information. Call the Title I office in your child's school district to find out. You may also find a list of SES providers and their contact information on the Indiana Department of Education's SES Website located at <http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/dg/ses/provider-list.cfm>.

### Where does the provider offer services?

Providers may offer services in a variety of settings, including:

- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Public libraries
- ☐ Provider offices
- ☐ Student's home
- ☐ Community centers
- ☐ Places of worship, or

- Other locations as agreed to with the school district, parent, and provider

Many providers will offer “hands-on” tutoring by trained instructors. Others may offer Internet-based instruction that students can access through a computer at home, in a school, or at a community center.

Make sure you and your child are comfortable with the tutoring location.

## **Is transportation provided?**

Some schools are required to provide transportation for SES, however, some schools are not required to offer transportation for children to attend SES program. In addition, although providers are not required to offer transportation, some providers do provide transportation. If your child will need transportation to tutoring sessions, ask the district or provider whether transportation will be offered. If no transportation will be offered, you will need to make plans to get your child to and from the tutoring sessions.

## **When does the provider offer services?**

Students can receive SES anytime outside of the regular school day. After school is the most common time for SES to be offered, but it could also take place before school, on weekends, or during the summer. Make sure the services are scheduled at a time that works for your family so that your child will be able to attend regularly.

## **How often and how long will my child receive tutoring?**

This can vary, from once a week to a few times a week for a few months or longer. Be sure to ask the provider or school district for this information before selecting a provider. Make sure you know how many sessions the provider will offer and for how long those sessions will continue so that you can make the best decision when selecting a provider.

## **What is the provider’s track record in raising student achievement?**

In order to be placed on the state list, providers must be able to demonstrate that they have a track record of raising student achievement in academic subjects, such as reading and math. Be sure to find out whether the provider has a successful track record of working with students whose needs are similar to your child’s needs.

To review on-site monitoring reports and evaluations of Indiana SES providers, please visit <http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/dg/ses/Evaluations.cfm>. The Indiana Department of Education has included grades providers have received in Customer Satisfaction, Service Delivery and Academic Effectiveness for providers that tutored students during the 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008 school years.

## **Who will be instructing my child? What are their qualifications?**

SES providers are not required to hire certified teachers. However, you should make sure you are confident that each tutor's level of experience and knowledge has prepared him or her to help your child improve academically. Be sure to ask potential providers about the backgrounds and qualifications of the tutoring staff who will be working with your child.

- ☐ Do they have experience teaching reading, language arts, math or science?
- ☐ Do they have experience working with children who are struggling in school?
- ☐ How will the tutor's performance be evaluated?

## **How are students grouped during tutoring?**

Providers offer different types of instruction. Some providers tutor in small groups (no more than 4 students) or large groups (no more than 6 students), while others offer one-on-one instruction or teach through computer-based programs. Other programs may use a combination of these approaches. Some providers group students based on grade level and some group students based on ability level. Be sure to choose a provider that offers instruction in a way that will work best for your child.

The provider description on the provider list you should have received from your child's district and the SES Provider list on the SES website include a list of the student/tutor ratio options for each provider.

## **What subject areas does the provider's services address?**

If your child is having trouble in a specific subject area, such as English/language arts, reading, math, or science, make sure that the provider you choose offers services focused on that subject area.

The provider description on the provider list you should have received from your child's school district and the SES Provider list on the SES website include a summary of the subjects in which each provider tutors.

## **Can instructors serve students who are English language learners?**

If your child's first language is not English, ask whether the provider you are considering will be able to serve the child in a manner that is appropriate for their needs.

## **Can the provider meet the learning needs of students with disabilities?**

If your child has a disability, be sure that the providers you are interested in can provide services in a manner that will be appropriate. The provider description on the provider list you should have received from your child's district and the SES Provider list on the SES website include a description of which providers state they are able to serve students with disabilities. Additionally, you may want to contact the provider directly to find out what specific services are offered to meet your child's learning needs and to ask if the provider currently works with students who have similar disabilities.

## **Does the provider measure student needs?**

All SES programs must measure student needs and develop a plan for instruction that meets these needs. Find out how the program you are considering measures student needs and develops a learning plan.

In addition, you should be invited by the school district or provider to learn more about the learning plan that will be developed for your child. You should also be given an opportunity to share suggestions on your child's goals and the learning plan.

## **How will the provider keep me informed of my child's progress?**

Providers are required to report back to you and the district about your child's progress towards his/her goals. Some providers may also communicate with your child's school and teacher about your child's progress. Find out how the provider will measure progress and report this information to you. Also, please feel free to ask how often you should expect to get this information.

Make sure your child's progress will be measured in a way that will be clear and useful for you. If the provider will report on your child's progress in writing, you can ask for a sample progress report to get a clearer picture of how this process would work.

## **Where can I find a description of SES providers in Indiana?**

If you do not have a copy of the provider list the school district mailed to you, your child's school or the school district's Title I office will have a list of providers and descriptions to share with you. In addition, the Indiana Department of Education maintains an updated list (including descriptions) on its SES website. Please click here <http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/dg/ses/SES09-corp-list.cfm> and find your child's school district.

## **How can I find out if my child attends a school that is required to offer SES?**

You may contact your child's school or the school district's Title I office to ask if your child's school is required to offer SES. You may also visit the Indiana Department of Education's website, click here <http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/dg/ses/SES09-welcome.html>, find your county and then click on your child's school district. Please feel free to review the list of schools to see if your child's school is listed and also click on any of the providers listed to view a description.

## **What happens if I choose a provider, but it does not help my child?**

Be sure to ask what procedures are in place if your child does not show improvement after working with a provider. Ask the Title I office in your child's school district when and how you can switch to another provider. In addition, if you are unhappy with a provider's services, be sure to provide feedback to the district and state to help them monitor the provider.

## **What if my child is eligible for SES but is already enrolled in an after school program?**

Find out if the after school program is an SES provider. Many after school programs are also SES providers. If the program is not an SES provider, compare the after school program's schedule with the provider's schedule to see what arrangements can be made to allow your child to participate in both programs if you would like your child to join both programs.